CARS scientist chosen by DOE for summer opportunity

Bertrand Hankoua will spend summer at NREL lab in Colorado

Dr. Bertrand Hankoua, Senior Research scientist in the College of Agriculture and Related Sciences, has been selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Visiting Faculty Program, June 2 – August 8, 2014, at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado. NREL seeks clean and renewable energy solutions to our national and global energy needs.

Dr. Hankoua was selected based upon his educational experience and competitive research project proposal titled, “Characterizing Novel Hyperthermophilic Ligninases from bacterium Caldicellulosiruptor bescii,” which he co-developed with Dr. Gregg T. Beckham, a staff engineer in the Biomass Research Group at NREL.

“This research opportunity will allow me to collaborate with talented scientists from around the world,” said Hankoua. “It will ultimately strengthen my current research interests and professional development opportunities in lignin biochemistry, especially regarding the mechanisms of enzymatic lignin degradation for process development purposes.”

Hankoua believes his selection will cast a spotlight on the work that DSU, and other institutions, are doing to develop renewable energy solutions to society’s energy demands.

“Participation in the program is designed to complement our academic program of studies and provide me with valuable, hands-on research experience with resident scientists,” Hankoua said. “Participation in the VFP program is a great honor. Likewise, performing current research at the nation’s primary renewable energy laboratory is a unique and rare experience.”

The College of Agriculture and Related Sciences at Delaware State University adheres to the 1890 land grant mission of teaching, research and extension. Through its departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Human Ecology, the College offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in agriculture, natural resources, food science, and textiles and apparel studies. Contact us online at www.desu.edu/cars, or by phone at (302) 857-6400 for more information.